(b) In order to achieve the goal of eradicating illiteracy in the age group 15-35 by 1900 in the 7th Plan, a substantial step-up of adult education programme with the involvement of all educated section of society, voluntary agencies and students has been proposed. The programme is being implemented through the following schemes:

(i) Centrally sponsored scheme of Rural Functional Literacy Projects;

(2) Central Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Agencies working in the field of Adult Education;

(3) State Sector Scheme of State Adult Education Programme;

(4) Adult Education Programme by universities and colleges; and

(5) Adult Education through Shramik Vidyapeeths.

Controversy about the nature of gas in the Bhopal tragedy

2391. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a controversy has been raised by some scientists and doctors regarding the type of gas which caused deaths and physically handicapped thousands of persons in the Bhopal gas disaster and the mode of treatment being given to such persons;

(b) if so, what are the details of the controversy; and

(c) whether in the light of the Controversy the mode of treatment being provided to the handicapped persons is being revised?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is reported that some doctors are of the view that hydrogen cyanide may have been a component of the toxic gas Commissions at Bhopal. Scientists so far have not reached any agreement on the components that may have been there in the toxic gas.

(c) the different modalities of treatment, their efficacy and outcome are determined through the conclusive results obtained from the various research schemes supported by the I.C.M.R. There is no proposal to depart from this procedure.

Missing ships in the Indian Ocean the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal

2392. DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA.
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) how many ships have disappeared during the past three years in the Indian Ocean, Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal;

(b) what are their names and what are the losses thereof and date on which incidents took place;

(c) what is the number of personnel who lost their lives; and

(d) whether Government propose to make it mandatory for ships to register Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon|Buoy (EPIRB), if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) According to available information two shops have disappeared in the last three years.

(b) Their names are Nitya Nanak and Nitya Ram and the last message from these ships was received on 21st June, 1985 whereafter no information is available. Nitya Nanak was valued for insurance purposes at Rs. 85 lakhs and was carrying a cargo of 5,440 tonnes of salt valued at Rs. 7,46,200. Nitya Ram was valued at Rs. 130 lakhs for insurance purposes and was carry-